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a surface of the belt, the belt comprising a base layer and a resin layer overlying or underlying the base layer when the papermaking belt is mounted on a papermaking machine, the resin layer having a middle part and opposite side edge parts, wherein the thickness of the opposite side edge parts of the resin layer is smaller than that of the middle part thereof, whereby curling of side edges of the belt is prevented by suppressing differential thermal contraction between the base layer and the resin layer.

4(new). A papermaking machine according to claim 3, wherein said belt is a belt from the group consisting of shoe press belts and transfer belts.

5(new). A papermaking machine according to claim 3, in which the papermaking machine includes rollers having cylindrical surfaces over which the belt travels, and in which the belt has opposite parallel surfaces, one of which contacts the cylindrical surfaces of the rollers over its entire width.

6. A papermaking machine having at least one belt for transporting a paper sheet along a path in the machine wherein the paper sheet is in parallel, juxtaposed relation to a surface of the belt, the belt comprising a base layer having opposite surfaces, a thin resin layer formed on one of the surfaces of the base layer and a thick resin layer formed on the other surface of the base layer, the thick resin layer having a middle part and opposite side edge parts, wherein the thickness of the opposite side edge parts of the thick resin layer is smaller than that of the middle part thereof, whereby curling of side edges of the belt is prevented by suppressing differential thermal contraction between the base layer and the thick resin layer.

7(new). A papermaking machine according to claim 6, wherein said belt is a belt from the group consisting of shoe press belts and transfer belts.

8(new). A papermaking machine according to claim 6, in which the papermaking machine includes rollers having cylindrical surfaces over which the belt travels, and in which the belt has opposite parallel surfaces, one of which contacts the cylindrical surfaces of the rollers over its entire width.

9(new). A papermaking process comprising the transportation of a paper sheet along a path in a papermaking machine on a belt mounted in the papermaking machine, wherein the paper sheet is in parallel, juxtaposed relation to a surface of the belt, wherein the belt comprises a base layer, and a resin layer overlying or underlying the base layer, the resin layer having a middle part and opposite side edge parts, wherein the thickness of the opposite side edge parts of the resin layer is smaller than that of the middle part thereof, whereby curling of side edges of the belt is prevented by suppressing differential thermal contraction between the base layer and the resin layer.

10(new). A papermaking process according to claim 9, wherein said belt is a belt is utilized in the papermaking machine as a shoe press belt or as a transfer belt.

11(new). A papermaking process according to claim 9, in which the belt travels over cylindrical surfaces of rollers in the papermaking machine, and in which the belt has opposite parallel surfaces, one of which contacts the cylindrical surfaces of the rollers over its entire width.